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## Border bill fails Senate test vote as Democrats seek to underscore Republican resistance



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., speaks to reporters following a Republican strategy session, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Associated Press  
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## Border bill fails Senate test vote as Democrats seek to underscore Republican resistance

From Front

By STEPHEN GROVES,  
 MARY CLARE JALONICK and  
 REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Senate Republicans again blocked a bill meant to clamp down on the number of migrants allowed to claim asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border as Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer sought Thursday to underscore GOP resistance to the proposal. The legislation, negotiated by a bipartisan group of senators, was already rejected by most Republicans in February when it was linked to a foreign aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other U.S. allies. But with immigration and border security becoming one of the top issues of this year's election, Democrats are looking for an answer to the barrage of GOP attacks, led by presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. "We gave Republicans a second chance to show where they stand," Schumer, a New York Democrat, said after the vote. "Do they want to fix this so-called emergency or do they want to show blind allegiance to the former president even when they know he's wrong?" Schumer is trying to defend a narrow Senate majority in this year's election and sees the Republican's rejection of the deal they negotiated as a political "gift" for Democrats.

Seeking to highlight Republican resistance to popular measures, Schumer is also planning to push forward a bill in June that would protect access to contraception. The Democratic leader said it would "show the public who's on what side and in June we're going to spend a significant amount of time talking about reproductive



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters following a Democratic strategy session, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Associated Press

rights."

On Thursday, most Senate Democrats again supported the procedural vote to begin debate on the border bill, but it failed to advance 43-50 after all but one Republican, Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, voted against it. When the proposal was brought up in February, the test vote failed 49-50 — well shy of the 60 votes needed to advance. This time, not even some of the bill's primary authors, Sens. James Lankford, an Oklahoma Republican, and Kyrsten Sinema, an Arizona independent, voted for Schumer's move.

"Today is not a bill, today is a prop," Lankford said on the floor ahead of the vote. "Everyone sees it for what it is." Sinema called the vote "political theater" that will do nothing to solve problems at the border.

"To use this failure as a political punching bag only punishes those who were courageous enough to do the hard work in the first place," she said.

Republican leaders spent much of the week decrying the vote as a bald-faced political maneuver and amplifying a well-worn criticism of President Joe Biden: That

he bears responsibility for the historic number of migrants who have made their way to the U.S. in recent years. "We're nearing the end of President Biden's term, and the American people's patience for his failing to secure the southern border is running thin," Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said Thursday.

Earlier in the week, McConnell told reporters, "The president needs to step up to it — do everything he can do on his own because legislation is obviously not going to clear this year."

Since the collapse of the Senate's legislation in February, the Biden administration has been considering executive orders on border policy and immigration. It has already made some changes to the asylum system meant to speed up processing and potential removal of migrants. Yet the Senate's test vote this week was widely seen as part of a lead-up to Biden issuing more sweeping border measures, potentially as early as June.

Following the failed vote, Biden in a statement said that he was "committed to taking action to address our broken immigration system."

He also slammed Republicans for blocking the bill, saying, it showed they "do not care about securing the border or fixing America's broken immigration system." The Democratic president has considered using a provision in federal immigration law that gives leeway to block entry of certain immigrants into the U.S. if it would be "detrimental" to the national interest of the United States. The authority was repeatedly tapped by Trump when he was in the White House, but some of those actions faced legal challenges.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters Monday that legislation to address problems at the border — as opposed to executive actions by the president — would be more effective. The Senate legislation would provide more money for Customs and Border Protection officials, asylum officers, immigration judges and scanning technology at the border — all things that officials have said the underfunded immigration and border protection system needs.

"The legislation provides tools that executive action cannot," Mayorkas said.

The Senate bill is aimed at gaining control of an asylum system that has sometimes been overwhelmed in the last year. It would provide faster and tougher enforcement of the asylum process, as well as give presidents new powers to immediately expel migrants if the numbers encountered by border officials exceed an average of 4,000 per day over a week. Even before the bill was fully released earlier this year, Trump effectively killed the proposal by labeling it "meaningless" and a

"gift" for Biden's reelection chances. Top Republicans soon followed his lead and even McConnell, who had initially demanded the negotiation over the border measures, voted against moving forward. A significant number of Democrats have also criticized the proposal, mostly because it does not include any broad relief for immigrants who have already established lives in the United States. On the left, four Democrats, as well as Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent of Maine, voted against advancing the bill.

"It fails to address the root causes of migration or to establish more lawful pathways," said Sen. Alex Padilla, a California Democrat.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus said in a statement this week that the Senate's bill "fails to meet the moment by putting forth enforcement-only policies and failing to include provisions that will keep families together." They have urged executive actions that would provide protections from deportation for immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for years or who have family ties to U.S. citizens. Amid the tension, Biden's reelection campaign met with CHC leadership Wednesday to discuss outreach to Latino communities, and Biden spoke on the phone with Rep. Nati Barragán, the chair of the group. She discussed the reasons for the group's opposition, according to a person familiar with the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversation.

Schumer said that if Democrats win majorities in the Senate and House next year, he wants to advance "comprehensive immigration reform." □

## Navajo Nation approves proposed settlement to secure Colorado River water

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP)

— The Navajo Nation Council has signed off on a proposed water rights settlement that carries a price tag larger than any such agreement enacted by Congress would ensure water for two other Native American tribes in a state that has been forced to cut back on water use.

The Navajo Nation has one of the largest single outstanding claims in the Colorado River basin. Delegates acknowledged the gravity of their vote Thursday, with many noting that securing water deliveries to tribal communities has been an effort that has spanned generations.

"Thank you for helping make history today," Navajo Council Speaker Crystaline Curley told her fellow delegates as they stood and clapped after casting a unanimous vote.

The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribal Council also voted to approve the settlement Thursday, while the Hopi tribe approved it earlier this week. Congress will have the final say.

Congress has enacted nearly three dozen tribal water rights settlements



Low water levels at Wahweap Bay at Lake Powell along the Upper Colorado River Basin are pictured, June 9, 2021, at the Utah and Arizona border at Wahweap, Ariz.

Associated Press

across the U.S. over the last four decades and federal negotiation teams are working on another 22 agreements involving dozens of tribes. In this case, the Navajo, Hopi and San Juan Southern Paiute tribes are seeking more than \$5 billion as part of their settlement.

About \$1.75 billion of that would fund a pipeline from Lake Powell, one of the two

largest reservoirs in the Colorado River system, on the Arizona-Utah border. The settlement would require the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to complete the project by the end of 2040. From there, water would be delivered to dozens of tribal communities in remote areas.

Nearly a third of homes in the Navajo Nation spanning 27,000 square miles

(70,000 square kilometers) of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah don't have running water. Many homes on Hopi lands are similarly situated.

Navajo President Buu Nygren plans to sign the settlement legislation as soon as it hits his desk, likely Friday. He told The Associated Press it had been a long road to get everyone to the table and the next

step will be knocking on the doors of Congress. "This is a tremendous step," he said of the tribes' unanimous votes. "We can finally plan for the future now, because of course it's hard to plan for the future when you don't know how much water we're thinking about."

A century ago, tribes were left out of a landmark 1922 agreement that divided the Colorado River basin water among seven Western states. Now, the tribes are seeking water from a mix of sources: the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River, aquifers and washes on tribal lands in northeastern Arizona.

The latest settlement talks were driven in part by worsening impacts from climate change and demands on the river like those that have allowed Phoenix, Las Vegas and other desert cities to thrive.

The Navajo, Hopi and San Juan Southern Paiute tribes are hoping to close the deal quickly under a Democratic administration in Arizona and with Joe Biden as president.

Without a settlement, the tribes would be at the mercy of courts. □

## Closed casino hotels in Mississippi could house unaccompanied migrant children

TUNICA RESORTS, Miss. (AP)

— Officials are considering a proposal to house unaccompanied migrant children at two former casino hotels in northwest Mississippi, an idea that has drawn opposition including from the local sheriff who said the county lacks resources to accommodate the plan.

Local news outlets reported that the repurposed facility would house as many as 2,000 children and teens at the hotels that were part of the Harrah's casino complex, which closed in 2014. The casino was demolished, and other proposals to reuse the hotels have not succeeded.

County supervisors met in executive session Monday to discuss the project, but Tunica County Attorney John Keith Perry told WREG-TV that supervisors have not officially endorsed the plan. "Obviously, anything that deals with immigration is a hot-button issue," Perry said.

Perry said the current owners are in talks with a private entity interested in buying the property, which he says is in good condition after being closed for 10 years. Any facility housing immigrants ages 17 and younger would have to meet federal regulations, Perry said, and his understanding is

the facility would be "self-contained."

"So, you don't have children that would be out and about for their safety reasons," he said.

The facility would also have to comply with a court settlement governing how the federal government treats migrant children, including limiting how long they can be confined.

Tunica County Sheriff K.C. Hamp said Wednesday that the county doesn't have resources, including a hospital, to care for immigrants, and they would have to be taken to neighboring communities.

"When it concerns public

safety, public healthcare, along with child protective services, Tunica County does not have a local

hospital in the event of an emergency," Hamp said in a statement. □



The Veranda hotel on May 13, 2014, in Tunica Resorts, Miss., one of two hotels being considered to house unaccompanied immigrant children in northwest Mississippi.

Associated Press

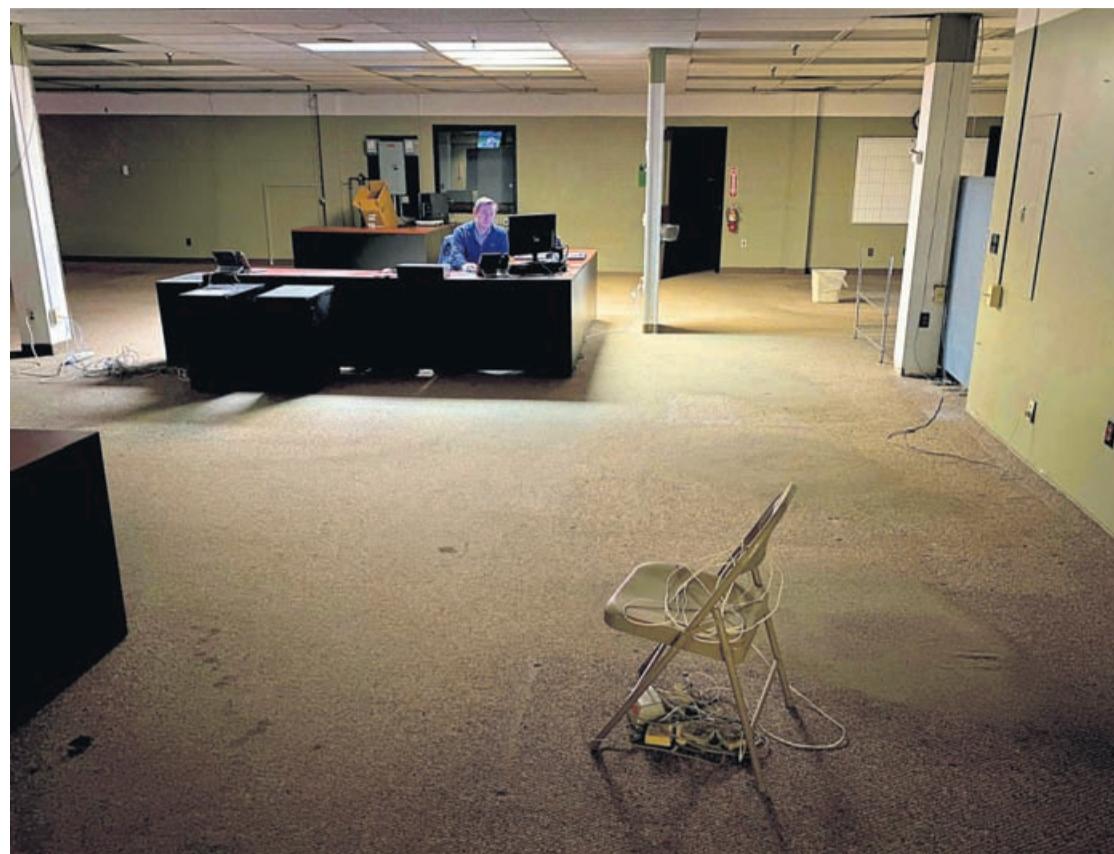
## New York will set aside money to help local news outlets hire and retain employees

By MAYSOON KHAN  
Associated Press/Report for America

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)** — New York is offering up to \$90 million in tax credits for news outlets to hire and retain journalists in an effort to help keep the shrinking local news industry afloat. The U.S. newspaper industry has been in a long decline, driven by factors including a loss in advertising revenue as outlets have moved from primarily print to mostly digital. That prompted state lawmakers to help in a measure passed in the state budget.

New York's three-year program allows some news organizations to tap into refundable tax credits each year, with a single outlet able to receive tax credits of up to \$320,000 annually. State Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, a Democrat who sponsored the legislation, said preserving journalism jobs is vital for the health of democracy.

As evidence, he cited the weakened New York news media's failure to research the background of George Santos, a Republican who fabricated many details of his life story, until after he



News Editor Chris Sciria puts the newspaper to bed for the last time from an empty newsroom at The Citizen's 25 Dill St. location in Auburn, N.Y. on Friday, Oct. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

had been elected to Congress.

"Some of my colleagues have dubbed this credit the 'George Santos Prevention Act' because many believe it was the lack of local press coverage that enabled Santos to spin his web of lies undetected," Hoylman-Sigal said.

While it is intended to benefit small community news sites, larger media organizations could also potentially benefit. The tax credits would mostly only be available to news outlets that are not publicly traded, though there would be an exception for certain media businesses that can

show a reduction in circulation.

Hoylman-Sigal said he is open to making revisions to expand the legislation to include nonprofit news organizations and digital-only media outlets, which are currently left out of the program.

"This is the first time in Amer-

ican history that we have created a tax credit structure to support journalism jobs," Jon Schleuss, president of the NewsGuild-CWA, a labor union for journalists, said.

Lawmakers in several states have weighed various approaches to help struggling news organizations.

The state governments in California and New Mexico help fund local news fellowship programs.

The California Legislature is considering a bill that would require tech giants like Google, Facebook and Microsoft to pay a percentage of advertising revenue to media companies for linking to their content. Google pushed back recently by temporarily removing California news websites from some people's search results.

In Illinois, lawmakers have proposed a journalism scholarship program, a tax credit and a requirement that news outlets notify the state of plans to sell their operations four months in advance. Bills in Connecticut and Illinois would direct that some money the state spends on advertising go to local outlets. □

## NY judge imposes \$15 million fine on unlicensed cannabis shops owner who says he gave free samples

By DAVE COLLINS  
Associated Press

The owner of seven unlicensed cannabis shops in

New York whose promotions included an Easter egg hunt has been fined more than \$15 million after



Cannabis flowers are displayed for sale, Jan. 24, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

state officials complained he repeatedly ignored notices to stop operating without approval, authorities said. A state Supreme Court justice in Lyons, New York, imposed the fine against David Tulley on Wednesday. Acting Justice Richard Healy penalized Tulley 90% of his gross sales from February 2022 to May 2023 as well as \$10,000 for each day he operated without licenses.

"This punishment should serve as a clear warning for all unlicensed cannabis stores in the state: we will enforce the law and shut down your operations," state Attorney General Le-

titia James said in a statement, adding that Tulley also was accused of illegally selling cannabis products to underage customers.

Tulley, who owned the I'm Stuck and Weed Warehouse businesses in Cayuga, Oswego and Wayne counties in western New York, said Thursday that he plans to appeal the fine. He also vowed to run for governor and change the licensing laws, which he said favored only certain people.

"It's political warfare and socialism in the United States at its finest," Tulley said of the fine, in text messages to The Associated

Press. "Comical. Can't get blood from a stone. ... And I will fix the Cannabis Program so that there is a transitional license for all and really get this market up and running."

Tulley previously said his shops did not need state licenses because they only offered consulting and education about cannabis products for a fee and provided free samples. He also denied selling products to underage people.

New York has had difficulties addressing the thousands of unlicensed retailers that have popped up after legal sales began in the state in late 2022. □

## Doctors treat hundreds of victims of heatstroke in Pakistan after heatwave hits the country

By MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Doctors treated hundreds of victims of heatstroke at hospitals across Pakistan on Thursday after an intense heatwave sent temperatures above normal levels due to climate change, officials said.

Temperatures soared as high as 49 degrees Celsius (120 degrees Fahrenheit) the previous day in Mohenjo Daro. The city, known for its archaeological sites, is in southern Sindh province, which was badly hit by climate-induced monsoon rains and devastating floods in 2022. The heatwave is forecast to continue for at least a week.

Authorities have urged people to stay indoors, hydrate and avoid unnecessary travel. But laborers say they don't have a choice because they need to work to feed their families.

"Pakistan is the fifth most vulnerable country to the impact of climate change. We have witnessed above normal rains, floods," Rubina Khursheed Alam, the prime minister's coordina-



Patients of heatstroke receive treatment at a hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, Thursday, May 23, 2024.  
Associated Press

tor on climate, said at a news conference in the capital, Islamabad.

Barakullah Khan, a civil defense official, asked people not to place cooking gas cylinders in open areas as a safety measure. He warned those living near fields that snakes and scorpions could enter homes and storage places in search of cooler

spaces. This month, temperatures are likely to soar to 55 C (131 F), weather forecasters said.

Doctors say they treated hundreds of patients in the eastern city of Lahore, while scores of people were brought to hospitals in Hyderabad, Larkana and Jacobabad districts in the southern Sindh province.

"The situation has been getting worse since yesterday, when people affected by heat started coming to hospitals in the Punjab province," said Ghulam Farid, a senior health official. Pakistan has set up emergency response centers at hospitals to treat patients affected by the heat. The state-run ambulance

service is now carrying bottled water and ice to provide emergency treatment to victims of the heat, health officials said.

The United Nations children's agency appealed for children to be protected from the heat.

"UNICEF is deeply concerned about the health and safety of babies and young children as debilitating heatwave conditions take hold in several countries," said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF regional director for South Asia. He said the increasing temperatures across the region could put millions of children's health at risk if they are not protected and hydrated.

Heatstroke is a serious illness that occurs when one's body temperature rises too quickly, causing some to fall unconscious. Severe heatstroke can cause disability or death. This year, Pakistan recorded its wettest April since 1961, with more than double the usual monthly rainfall. Last month's heavy rains killed scores of people while destroying property and farmland. □

## Deputy Russian military chief of staff jailed for bribery in latest arrest of high defense official

MOSCOW (AP) — A deputy chief of the Russian military general staff has been arrested on charges of large-scale bribery, Russian news reports said Thursday, the latest in a series of bribery arrests of high-ranking military officials.

The arrest of Lt. Gen. Vadim Shamarin followed the arrest earlier in the week of Maj. Gen. Ivan Popov, a former top commander in Russia's offensive in Ukraine, also on bribery charges.

In April, Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov was arrested for bribery. Ivanov was a close associate of Sergei Shoigu, whom President Vladimir Putin dismissed as defense minister soon after Putin's inaugura-

tion to a new term in May. Lt. Gen. Yury Kuznetsov, head of the Defense Ministry's personnel directorate, was arrested on bribery charges two days after Shoigu was replaced.

Shamarin, the latest officer to be arrested, is also the head of the Defense Ministry's main communications directorate. He is being held in custody for two months, Russian news agencies cited a military garrison court as saying, but other details of the case were not reported. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the wave of arrests of defense officials did not indicate a campaign against the military. "The fight against corrup-

tion is consistent work. This is not a campaign, it is constantly ongoing work. This is an integral part of the activities of our law enforcement agencies," he said Thursday in a conference call with journalists.

Hours after Shamarin's arrest, Russia's Investigative Committee reported detaining another Defense Ministry official Vladimir Verteletsky, who headed a division in the state defense procurement department of the ministry. Verteletsky was charged with abuse of office that resulted in damages worth over 70 million rubles, the Investigative Committee spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko said in a statement. He was placed

in custody pending investigation and trial. □



This photo released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service, shows Lt. Gen. Vadim Shamarin, deputy chief of the Russian military general staff, posing for an official photo in Moscow, Russia, on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

# Stage collapse at a campaign rally in northern Mexico kills at least 9 people and injures 121

By ALBERTO MENDOZA

Associated Press

**SAN PEDRO GARZA GARCIA, Mexico (AP)** —

The collapse of a stage in heavy winds at a campaign rally in northern Mexico has killed at least nine people, including a child, and injured 121, the governor of Nuevo Leon state said Thursday.

The collapse occurred during an event Wednesday evening attended by presidential long-shot candidate Jorge Álvarez Márquez, who ran to escape. Videos of the collapse on social media showed people screaming, running away and climbing out from under metal polls. The victims "will not be alone in this tragedy," Márquez told reporters Wednesday night, adding that he had suspended upcoming campaign events. Afterward, soldiers, police and other officials roamed the grounds of the park where the event took place while many nearby sat stunned and haunted by the tragedy.

In a video message, Nuevo Leon Gov. Samuel García, a leading member of Márquez's Citizens Movement party, said 94 of the injured were treated and released, but that 27 remained hospitalized. State



Relief workers and security forces stand next to electoral posters after a stage collapsed due to a gust of wind during an event attended by presidential candidate Jorge Álvarez Márquez in San Pedro Garza García, on the outskirts of Monterrey, Mexico, Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Associated Press

health authorities said a lot of the injuries involved skull fractures. García said several victims were undergoing surgery and some appeared to be in critical condition.

García said the accident occurred "in a matter of seconds."

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said most of the injured were women.

He absolved Márquez's Citizens Movement party

widely viewed as an implicit ally of López Obrador's Morena party of blame even before investigations were carried out.

"We know that they are not to blame," the president said Thursday. Condolences poured in from across Mexico, including from the other two presidential candidates.

Márquez wrote in his social media accounts that he went to a hospital after the accident in the wealthy

suburb of San Pedro Garza García, near the city of Monterrey. He said he was in good condition.

"The only important thing at this point is to care for the victims of the accident," he wrote.

Videos of the accident showed Márquez waving his arm as the crowd chanted his name. But then he looked up to see a giant screen and metal structure toppling toward him. He ran rapidly toward the

back of the stage to avoid the falling structure, which appeared to consist of relatively light framework pieces as well as what appeared to be a screen with the party's logo and theater-style lights.

In a Facebook post, Alejandra Gamez Escalera wrote that her father and a stepbrother, 11, died in the collapse. She said they had gone to the event to hear a band that was scheduled to play at the campaign rally.

"If only you had stayed home and not gone to the event, none of this would have happened," Gamez Escalera wrote.

Márquez has been running third in polls in the presidential race, trailing both front-runner Claudia Sheinbaum of the ruling Morena Party and opposition coalition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez. Both sent their condolences, and Sheinbaum canceled a campaign event in nearby Monterrey the next day "in solidarity" with victims and their loved ones. "My condolences and prayers with the families of the dead, and my wishes for a speedy recovery to all those injured," wrote Gálvez in a social media post. □

## Top U.N. court declines to issue preliminary orders in Mexico-Ecuador dispute over Quito embassy raid

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** —

The top United Nations court declined Thursday to issue an immediate order for Ecuador to protect Mexican diplomatic property following the storming of Mexico's embassy in Quito to arrest a former vice president.

International Court of Justice President Nawaf Salam said pledges made by Ecuador in a letter to the court and in public hearings last month "encompass the concerns expressed by Mexico" in its request for interim measures.



Mexico's agent and ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano, left, shakes hands with Ecuador's ambassador Andres Teran Parral as they wait for judges to enter the International Court of Justice, or World Court, in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Associated Press

He said that given Ecuador's assurances, "the court considers that there is at present no urgency" requiring preliminary orders. Ecuador's ambassador to the Netherlands, Andres Teran Parral, welcomed the court's ruling.

"The court highlighted, among other things, that Ecuador has given repeated assurances that it would provide full protection and security to the premises, property and archives of the Mexican Embassy in Quito. Ecuador stands by its assurances," he told reporters at the court.

The April 5 raid, hours after

Mexico granted asylum to former Vice President Jorge Glas, drew widespread condemnation in Latin America and ratcheted up tensions that had been brewing between the two countries since Glas, a convicted criminal and fugitive, took refuge at the embassy in December.

At a hearing late last month, Alejandro Celorio Alcantara, legal adviser for Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry, told International Court of Justice judges that Ecuador's actions overstepped "lines in international law which should not be crossed." □

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** (\*details subject to change)

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(ONE PARTY – TWO CLUBS)**

11am - 3pm | MOOMBA BEACH (Palm Beach)  
FREE ADMISSION

Featuring: DJ E-Clazz & DJ Diablo  
\*No outside bottles allowed



DJ JAZZY JEFF

DJ FRANK SKI

CLUB

DJ TRAUMA

DJ ENVY

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## The Savaneta Foundation will continue renovating houses with their project "Cuashi di Curason"

The "Cuashi di Curason" project is an initiative by Fundacion Savaneta Prome Capital, which began in September of last year. They have already renovated several houses that have become tourist attractions. Now, they have announced that they will continue with the projects in other houses in the district.



The president of the foundation, Norman Thijssen, recently announced in a press conference that Savaneta 64 is one of the first four houses they started renovating. "We are very proud that so often we pass by here with activities we organize in the area," he said.

This marks the second year of the project, aligning with the foundation's goal of preserving cultural and historical values. They focus on houses that are between 80 and 100 years old in their traditional form and aim to revive these houses. Thijssen assured that they only renovate, not restore, because restoration is a task for the Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba, which restores authentically. They paint the houses in bright colors to beautify the house, the street, and the district, believing this helps strengthen the cultural identity of Savaneta.

They will help paint four more houses: Savaneta 181, Savaneta 65, Savaneta 16, and Sava-

neta 123-A with the collaboration of their volunteers, including the Marinierskazerne, which also helped with a beach cleaning, and the La Fama Football Club.

They emphasized that Savaneta also has tourism to offer outside of the beach. If they manage to renovate 20 houses over time, according to Thijssen, this could become a tour. For them, the colors of the houses are important to remain attractive, just like the first one, where tourists already stop and take pictures at the Savaneta 64 house located nearby.

Fundacion Savaneta Prome Capital was established with the goal of preserving cultural and historical values and contributing to the socio-economic development of Savaneta. In the end, Savaneta is also a tourist attraction in Aruba, where its boutique hotels, restaurants, beaches, and scenic views of the hills put Savaneta on the world map as a tourist destination. □

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The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar  
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## Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

### Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

#### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

#### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are

a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

#### Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

#### (Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aru-

ban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

#### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



## Aruba to me

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## CXXVI- 128 Mangroves

**NOORD — Mangroves form transition vegetation from land to sea which offers great protection to tropical islands and continental shorelines, estuaries and lagoons of tropical latitudes areas, trees and shrubs that can grow below the maximum level of tides and are very tolerant to high salinity of sea water. Mangrove forests forms a separate and unique echo system on its own right.**

Mangroves protect both the saltwater and the freshwater ecosystems they straddle. The mangroves' complex root systems filter nitrates and phosphates that rivers and streams carry to the sea. They also keep seawater from encroaching on inland waterways.

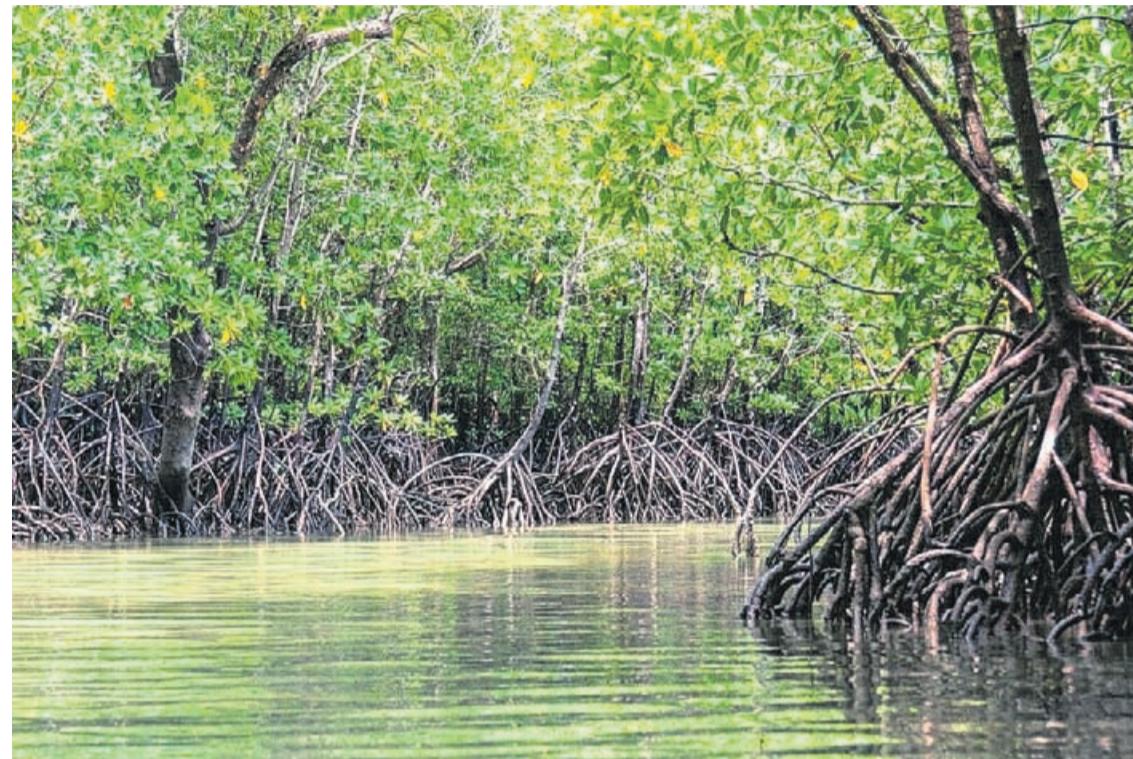
They act as a protective barrier between water and land, preventing coastal erosion and reducing the effect of waves and swells, especially during extreme weather events, being a powerful shield against

storms, hurricanes and tsunamis.

According to experts, mangroves capture and store 34 million tons of carbon globally. A great contribution to the fight against climate change and global heat!

They promote biodiversity as they serve as a habitat in its entirety. Many types of fish, crabs, shrimp and mollusks inhabit its roots; birds also find a favorable habitat in the mangroves. They also provide spawning grounds for fish and crustaceans on nearby coral reefs and offer them shelter during the early stages of life.

Mangrove forests provide many of the resources upon which coastal people depend for their survival and livelihood. At low tide, people can walk across the tidal flats to collect clams, shellfish, and shrimp. At high tide, fish move in to feed among the protection of mangrove roots, turning the marshy land into rich



fishing grounds. The mangrove trees themselves provide fuel, medicines, tannins, and wood for building houses and boats.

Recent studies have shown that mangroves can be used for biotechnology. And due to its tolerance to salinity, the possibility of transferring genes taken from mangrove species to certain foods, such as rice, has been studied to devel-

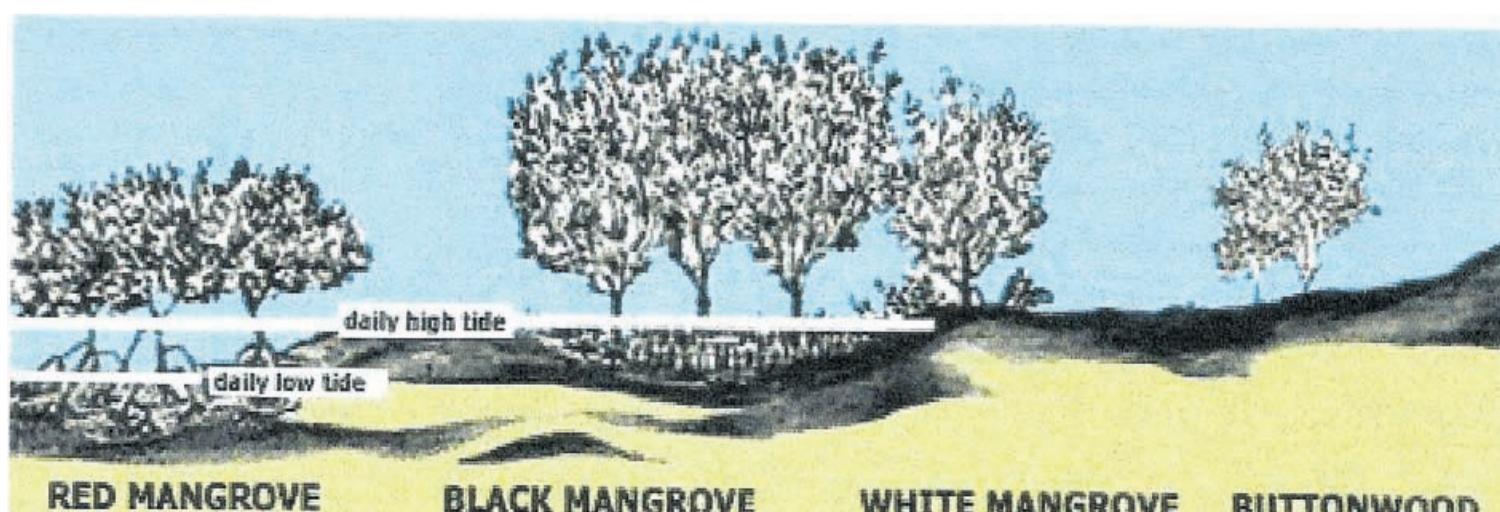
op new varieties of crops, generating new opportunities for coastal farmers.

However we must also know keep in mind that mangroves are very susceptible to drastic change, delicate because they require an environment in balance to survive. This means that they require an appropriate concentration of fresh and salt water to thrive.

The rise in sea level as a consequence of climate change causes a saline imbalance in the mangrove habitat that makes their survival difficult in addition to pollution caused by man and the overexploitation of resources. All this endangers these species, which are among the most diverse and productive in the world offering so many benefits that they undoubtedly deserve governmental commitment and our protection.

Fishermen of Southern Thailand Trang Province have a saying that goes like this "If there are no mangrove forests, the sea will have no meaning. It is like having a tree with no roots, for the mangroves are the roots of the sea."—

To get to know more about Aruba's origins, flora, fauna and cultural heritage, we recommend this private cultural encounter session that has been educating participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com or Whatsapp +297 592 2702 for an amazing native hour. □

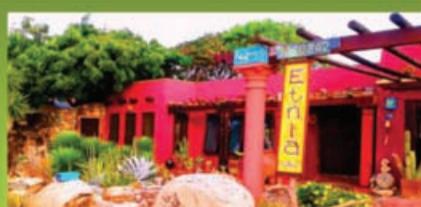


RED MANGROVE

BLACK MANGROVE

WHITE MANGROVE

BUTTONWOOD



**Article by: Etnia Nativa**

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**Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels**



## A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were



the only means of transportation." Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30

kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron

attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Locker room need 45 Private's boss
- 6 Party givers 46 Grill waste

11 "Skyfall" singer

12 Foreword

13 Monster

14 Letter stroke

15 X in a letter

17 Pirate's take

18 Track event

20 Hormuz's nation

22 German cry

23 Counter cleaners

26 "This too — pass"

28 Joe of "Good-fellas"

29 Emma, for one

31 Great weight

32 Pinnacle

33 Gaggle sound

34 Guitar accessory

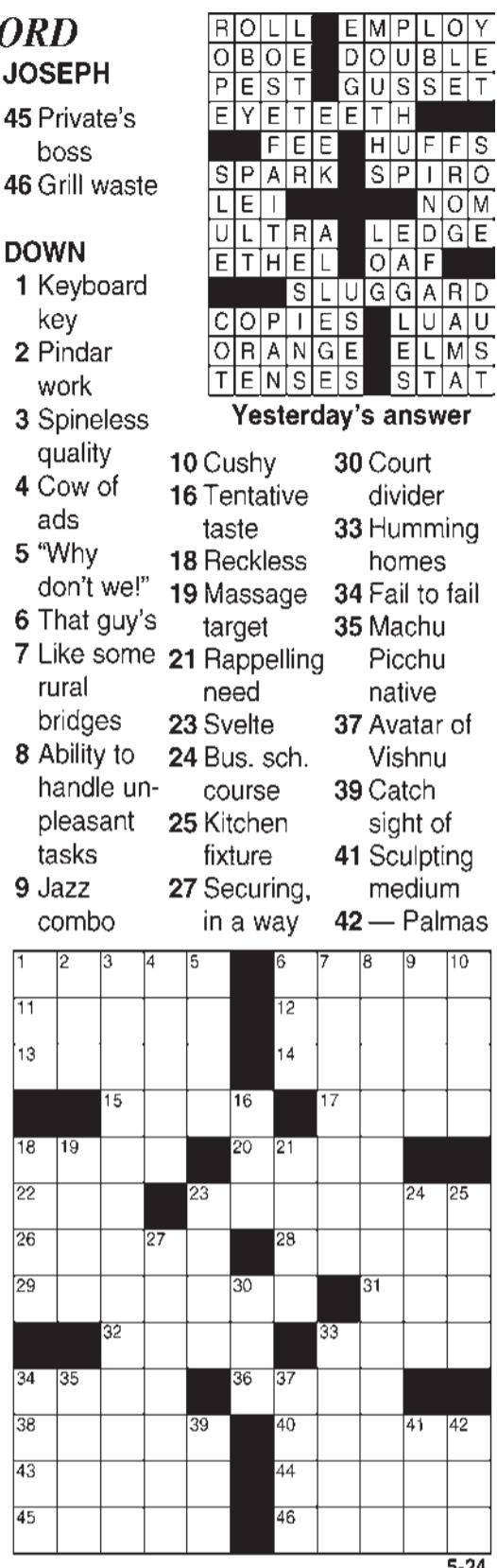
36 Quick cut

38 Those opposed

40 Be of use

43 Play part

44 Pilgrimage site



5-24

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

FNGAG'U WD KAGYFGA KORF

FNYW FNOWBOWK FNYF TDE

NYJ UDLG OLQYVF DW FNG

M DAZJ, RDA FNG HGFFGA.

— KZDAOY UFGOWGL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU PRIORITIZE YOURSELF, YOU ARE GOING TO SAVE YOURSELF.— GABRIELLE UNION

## Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

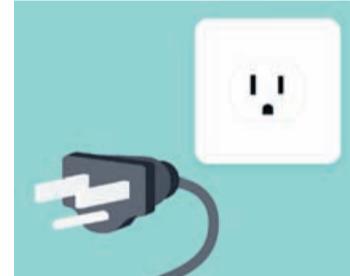
(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Electrical power



Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets:

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

# Using AI, Mastercard expects to find compromised cards quicker, before they get used by criminals



A sign indicating MasterCard credit cards are accepted is posted at a New York business, Jan. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

By KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Mastercard said Wednesday that it expects to be able to discover that your credit or debit card number has been compromised well before it ends up in the hands of a cybercriminal. In its latest software update rolling out this week, Mastercard is integrating artificial intelligence into its fraud-prediction technology that it expects will be able to see patterns in stolen cards faster and allow banks to replace them before they are used by criminals. "Generative AI is going to allow to figure out where did you perhaps get your credentials compromised, how do we identify how it possibly happened,

and how do we very quickly remedy that situation not only for you, but the other customers who don't know they are compromised yet," said Johan Gerber, executive vice president of security and cyber innovation at Mastercard, in an interview.

Mastercard, which is based in Purchase, New York, says with this new update it can use other patterns or contextual information, such as geography, time and addresses, and combine it with incomplete but compromised credit card numbers that appear in databases to get to the cardholders sooner to replace the bad card.

The patterns can now also be used in reverse, potentially using batches of bad

cards to see potentially compromised merchants or payment processors. The pattern recognition goes beyond what humans could do through database inquiries or other standard methods, Gerber said. Billions of stolen credit card and debit card numbers are floating in the dark web, available for purchase by any criminal. Most were stolen from merchants in data breaches over the years, but also a significant number have been stolen from unsuspecting consumers who used their credit or debit cards at the wrong gas station, ATM or online merchant. These compromised cards can remain undetected for weeks, months or even years. It is only when the payment networks themselves dive into the dark web to fish for stolen numbers themselves, a merchant learns about a breach, or the card gets used by a criminal do the payments networks and banks figure out a batch of cards might be compromised. "We can now actually proactively reach out

to the banks to make sure that we service that consumer and get them a new card in her or his hands so they can go about their lives with as little disruption as possible," Gerber said. The payment networks are largely trying to move away from the "static" credit card or debit card numbers that is a card number and expiration date that is used universally across all merchants and move to unique numbers for specific transactions. But it may take years for that transition to happen, particularly in the U.S. where payment technology adoption tends to lag. While more than 90% of all in-person transactions worldwide are now using chip cards, the figure in the U.S. is closer to 70%, according to EMVCo, the technological organization behind the chip in credit and debit cards. □



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Oduber : Tel. 582 1780  
San Nicolas:  
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### OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
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### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900  
Prof. Taxi 588 0035  
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300  
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232  
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport 524 2424  
American Airlines 582 2700  
Avianca 588 0059  
Jet Blue 588 2244  
Surinam 582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

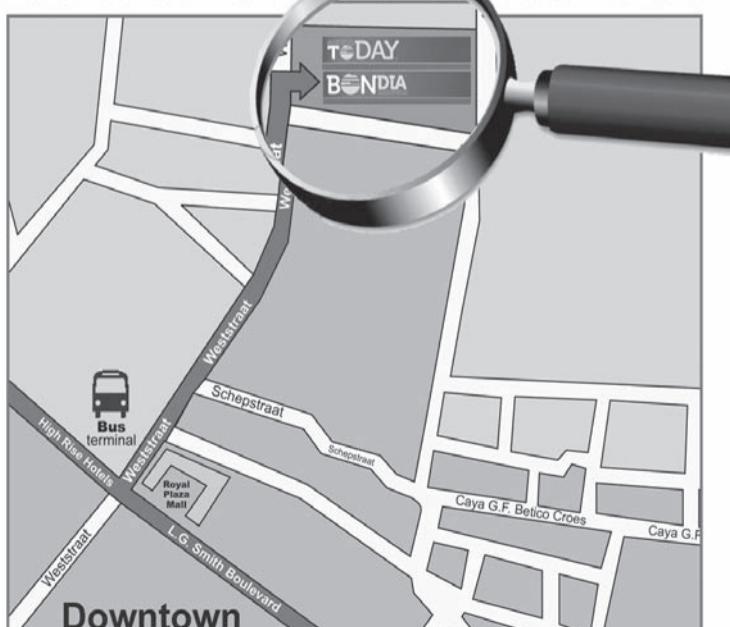
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# Independent booksellers continued to expand in 2023, with more than 200 new stores opening

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP National Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Three years ago, Erin Decker was a middle school librarian in Kissimmee, Florida, increasingly frustrated by the state's book bans and worried that she couldn't make a difference remaining in her job.

So, she and fellow librarian Tania Galiñanes thought of a way to fight back.

"We just put our heads together and decided a bookstore would help make sure students could get to books that were being pulled from shelves," says Decker, whose White Rose Books & More opened last fall in Kissimmee. The store is named for a resistance group in Nazi Germany and features a section ringed by yellow "caution" tape dedicated to such banned works as Maia Kobabe's "Gender Queer," Jonathan Evison's "Lawn Boy" and John Green's "Looking for Alaska."

White Rose Books is part of the ever-expanding and diversifying world of independent bookstores. Even as industry sales were slow in 2023, membership in the American Booksellers Association continued its years-long revival. It now stands at 2,433, more than 200



This image released by White Rose Books & More shows bookstore owners Tania Galiñanes, left, and Erin Decker outside their shop in Kissimmee, Fla. on Nov. 4, 2023.

Associated Press

over the previous year and nearly double since 2016. Around 190 more stores are in the process of opening over the next two years, according to the ABA.

"Our numbers are really strong, and we have a solid, diverse pipeline of new stores to come," says the book association's CEO, Alison Hill. She cites a range of reasons for people opening stores, from opposing bans

to championing diversity to pursuing new careers after the pandemic.

"Some are opening to give back to their community. And some still just love books," she said during a phone interview this week. Recent members include everyone from the romance-oriented That's What She Read in Mount Ayr, Iowa; to Seven Stories in Shawnee, Kansas, man-

aged by 15-year-old Halley Vincent; to more than 20 Black-owned shops.

In Pasadena, California, Octavia's Bookshelf is named for the late Black science fiction author Octavia Butler and bills itself as "a space to find community, enjoy a cup of coffee, read, relax, find unique and specially curated products from artisans from around the world and in our neigh-

borhood." Leah Johnson, author of the prize-winning young adult novel "You Should See Me In a Crown," was troubled by the surge in book bans and by what she saw as a shortage of outlets for diverse voices. Last year, she founded Loudmouth Books, one of several independent sellers to open in Indianapolis.

"I'm not a person who dreamed of opening a bookstore. I didn't want to be anybody's boss," Johnson says. "But I saw a need and I had to fill it."

Most of the new businesses are traditional "brick and mortar" retailers. But a "bookstore" can also mean a "pop-up" business like Loc'd & Lit, which has a mission to bring "the joy of reading to the Bronx," the New York City borough that had been viewed by the industry as a "desert" for its scarcity of bookstores. Other new stores are online only, among them the Be More Literature Children's Bookshop and the used books seller Liberation Is Lit. Nick Pavlidis, a publisher, ghost writer and trainer of ghost writers, launched the online Beantown Books in 2023 and has since opened a small physical store in suburban Boston. □

## Sony says focus is on creativity, with games, movies, music, sensors, IP, and not gadgets

By YURI KAGEYAMA  
AP Business Writer  
**TOKYO (AP)** — Japanese



A logo of Sony is seen at the headquarters of Sony Corp. on May 10, 2022, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

electronics and entertainment company Sony says it's focusing on creativity

in movies, animation and video games, rather than old-fashioned gadgetry. Its chief executive, Kenichiro Yoshida, outlined the company's strategy Thursday, saying Sony was helping creative professionals deliver what he called "kando," or a moving experience.

Yoshida did not speak about reports Tokyo-based Sony and Apollo Global Management are interested in buying Paramount Global.

Yoshida said the company is now emphasizing the creative process itself in-

stead of prized products of the past like the Walkman portable music player and Trinitron color TVs. He said "synergies" are no longer between entertainment and electronics, but determined by intellectual property spanning animation, music, games and films.

"We will continue to support people's creativity through our technology," he said in an online briefing.

Sony is adapting to tougher times, with rivals making cheaper but competitive electronics. Critics say venturing into movies, music

and other entertainment can be unprofitable. Starting with its acquisition of EMI Music Publishing in 2018, Sony has invested approximately 1.5 trillion yen (\$10 billion) in the last six years to strengthen its content creation.

In 2021 it acquired Crunchyroll, which has more than 13 million paid subscribers and delivers Japanese animation globally. Another was Yoasobi, a Japanese music duo that includes Vocaloid technology, or singing voice synthesizer software, and is attracting global fans. □

# NFL closer to filling every day of the week with a game as league's reach keeps growing

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Pro Football Writer

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** —

The NFL hasn't scheduled a game for every day of the week.

Yet.

"We're going to be the new 7-Eleven," New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan said. "NFL, 24 hours, you can watch them play any given day."

The veteran preparing for his 14th season has a way of lacing his critiques with playful satire that hits his intended target. With the NFL close to filling every day of the week with a game in the 2024 season, the league with a reputation of "any given Sunday" might just qualify for that new nickname.

It's all part of the NFL's plan to keep growing the game and the league.

"Our job is to be everywhere our fans are," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said when asked about the league's new three-year Netflix deal that this year adds Wednesday games. "They have almost 300 million global subscribers. We are obviously focused on becoming more global. So it's a huge ben-



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws a pass during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

efit to us."

That deal is why the league that has scheduled and played games on Christmas for years will be playing not one, but two games on Christmas when defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City visits Pittsburgh as part of a holiday doubleheader capped by Baltimore at Houston.

The difference is this will be

only the third time the NFL has played on a Wednesday since 1950.

The four teams involved all play on Saturday, giving coaches and players the kind of turnaround faced when a Sunday game is followed by a Thursday night kickoff. Tuesday is the only day the Chiefs won't play a game this season technically the lone day off for

NFL players with Sunday games.

Washington coach Dan Quinn said the key to preparing is sticking to a routine and shifting days. That involves trying to fool the body clock.

"This would be like a Wednesday, this would be like a Friday, this is what we do before the game, so it's not as difficult as it seems,"

Associated Press

Quinn said. "You have some travel that you have to work in, shorter weeks, longer weeks, but staying true to a process."

The Baltimore Ravens will only miss playing a game on a Tuesday and Friday in a schedule that includes a pair of Thursday games. Christmas will cap a stretch of three games in 11 days for Baltimore.

Ravens safety Kyle Hamilton said it's not so much a concern as more of a "shock factor," but players will adapt and prepare for what may be the start of a new stage for the NFL. He said players likely had the same conversations when the NFL introduced games on Monday nights, then Thursday nights.

"I'm sure 10 years from now, that might be the norm," Hamilton said of an NFL schedule featuring games throughout a week.

Arizona offensive lineman Will Hernandez said getting the body to bounce back quickly is tough.

"I just go back to this: We all signed for it. We know what it is. Let's just go," Hernandez said. Monday nights used to be for a premier game for the NFL. □

## Merlier sprints to second victory on stage 18 of Giro, Pogacar maintains considerable lead

**PADUA, Italy (AP)** — Belgian rider Tim Merlier won a chaotic bunch sprint for his second victory at this year's Giro d'Italia as Tadej Pogacar maintained his considerable lead with three days remaining.

Merlier timed his last effort precisely to beat Jonathan Milan by less than half a wheel at the end of the 18th stage, a mainly flat, 178-kilometer (111-mile) route from Fiera di Primiero to Padua that offered some respite after two brutal days in the high mountains.

Both were far back when the sprint was launched by Alberto Dainese but Merlier managed to find a gap on

the right while Milan powered down the middle. However, Milan could only shake his head wryly as he looked to his right to see Merlier raise his arms in celebration. Kaden Groves was third.

"We were always in good position, not a perfect line but we managed to be in a good position," Merlier said. "I was a bit surprised, the last kilometer was really fast with the two corners, and I was surprised even the last 600 or 500 meters.

"Then I found my moment. I started my sprint but I need to go a bit around. But in the end I make it." Merlier, who rides for Soudal-Quick-Step, also won

the third leg this year to add to his stage victory in the 2021 Giro.

He was narrowly beaten on the 11th stage by Milan, who also won the fourth and 13th legs.

"It would be nice to have 3-3 but we will see," Merlier said, with the final sprint day in Rome to come. "I say before Giro I want to win more than one stage and now I have the second, so my Giro is good."

Pogacar, a two-time Tour de France champion, remained seven minutes, 42 seconds ahead of Daniel Martinez with third-place Geraint Thomas 8:04 behind the Slovenian star. Friday's 19th stage is an un-

dulating stage with three categorized climbs in the final 60 kilometers (37 miles)

of the 157-kilometer (98-mile) route from Morteglia to Sappada. □



Belgium's Tim Merlier, center, celebrates winning the 18th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Fiera di Primiero to Padua, Italy, Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Associated Press

**WIN!**  
*Luxury Wagon*

APRIL 12 - NOVEMBER 22, 2024

Must be over the age of 18 years. The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

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### WEEKLY DRAWINGS

Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 300 points / \$150 theoretical win or with every \$150 check at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak or Divi Lounge.

### SELECTING FINALISTS

EVERY SATURDAY TILL NOVEMBER 16TH

9:00PM - 11:00PM

Selecting 6 winners of a \$1,000 each in cash every hour.

11:30PM

Selecting one finalist for the final drawing plus \$1,500 cash.

12:00AM

Selecting 9 winners of \$500 each in slot credit.



## Anticipating the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba mega campaign for 2024: WIN A MERCEDES-BENZ G-CLASS 2024!

(Palm Beach)—Since 2019 The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba has been known for its thrilling giveaways like the Ferrari giveaway, Mega Win campaigns with the most attractive cash prizes, exotic vacations and many more. This year, as they are preparing for the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, they are giving away a Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024!

All visitors of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba have the opportunity to participate to win this amazing car by being or becoming a member of the VIP Club where they can enjoy unique benefits.

Players can accumulate their points until November 22nd, to receive raffle tickets in order to participate. Players can earn their raffle tickets as follows:

- Every 300 points on slot machines / \$150 of theoretical win on tables = 1 raffle ticket.
- Every check of \$150 at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak and Divi Lounge = 1 raffle ticket

There will be **50 finalists** competing in the grand finale on November 22nd to be the lucky winner of the Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024! There are four ways to become a finalist:

- Weekly Drawings (every Saturday with \$12,000 in prizes): selecting 31 finalists
- Golden Key on November 16th: selecting 2 finalists
- Top Player's Race on November 21st: selecting 9 finalists
- Last Chance Drawing on November 22nd: selecting 8 finalists

This campaign has gathered local and international attention as this is the second time that The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba raffles a high-end luxury car in the Caribbean region and gives their players the opportunity to win this unique car.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024 has a boxy exterior, which is its iconic charm, in addition to making a striking visual statement for its bold black exterior and lavish red interior. Once inside, you will find all the Mercedes-Benz luxury hallmarks, including red leather comfort seats and Burmester surround system which consists of 15 loudspeakers. You will find everything that you are looking for in a car with this Luxury Wagon: refinement, comfort and performance of a turbocharged V8 engine. This luxury vehicle offers a unique experience and one player will be the lucky winner on November 22nd.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is very proud to bring this car to the island in anticipation of the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, as it reflects the luxury and high quality of The Ritz-Carlton and St. Regis brand.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba offers high quality service and offers a unique and memorable experience. For more participation details of the Luxury Wagon Campaign 2024, please visit The Casino VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba or contact 527-2276/ 527-2277 and they will be happy to assist you with further details on how to participate and WIN!□